

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3718

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (LUNS, JOSEPH)

SUBJ: VISIT OF NATO SEC GEN LUNS

REF: LISBON 8501 (DTG 041557Z NOV 77)(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NATO SEC GEN LUNS'S NOV 8-11 VISIT WAS OVER-
SHADOWED BY A POLITICAL CRISIS AND WAS A MODEST SUCCESS.
END SUMMARY.

1. COURTESY CALL: AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT EANES,
NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS VISITED LISBON
NOVEMBER 8-11 AND MET WITH PRESIDENT EANES, PRIME MINISTER
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SOARES, AND THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES.
DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, LUNS AND EANES
REVIEWED THE PROCESS OF MODERNIZING THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES,
AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION.

2. IN A TOAST DURING HIS DINNER FOR LUNS, PRIME MINISTER
SOARES:

- REVIEWED THE ADVANTAGES OF COLLECTIVE DEFENSE;
- SALUTED THE TRADITIONAL PORTUGUESE TIES TO EUROPE AND THE IMPORTANCE TO ATLANTIC DEFENSE OF THE "STRATEGIC TRIANGLE" OF PORTUGAL, THE AZORES, AND MADEIRA; AND
- APPEALED FOR ALLIED AID TO MAKE POSSIBLE AN EFFECTIVE PORTUGUESE CONTRIBUTION TO COMMON DEFENSE.
- LAVISHED PRAISE ON SOARES.

3. IN RESPONSE, LUNS:

- SAID ALL COUNTRIES SUPPORT PORTUGUESE EFFORTS TO FIND THE RIGHT ROAD TO RESOLVE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS;
- WISHED THE PORTUGUESE WELL IN NEGOTIATIONS TO ENTER THE EEC; AND
- AFFIRMED THAT ALL NATO MEMBERS WANT PORTUGAL TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY IN DEFENSE OF THE ATLANTIC.

4. PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS: AT A PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 10 LUNS REITERATED HIS, AND THE ALLIANCE'S, SYMPATHY FOR PORTUGAL. REGARDING THE PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, LUNS CITED THREE FACTORS AS CAUSING SLOW DELIVERY DATES FOR NEW EQUIPMENT: STRIKES IN THE U.S.; TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, SINCE THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES ARE NOT YET CAPABLE OF HANDLING CERTAIN KINDS OF ADVANCED EQUIPMENT; E.G. ELECTRONIC GEAR; AND GENERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING ALL MEMBERS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ALLIANCE. RE SPECIFIC SERVICE PROBLEMS, LUNS NOTED THAT CONVERSATIONS WERE CONTINUING ON A NEW FIGHTER FOR PORTUGAL AND MEANS OF FINANCING ITS ACQUISITION. HE ALSO STATED THAT TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS REGARDING THE PORTUGUESE NAVY'S DESIRE TO ACQUIRE BRITISH FRIGATES.

5. COMMENT: THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S VISIT, UNFORTUNATELY, WAS COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED BY PORTUGAL'S CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE ENGAGING THE ATTENTION OF LISBON'S CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS. HIS BLUFF AND GENIAL MANNER DID NOT COMPENSATE FOR THE FACT THAT HE DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN GENERALITIES. WHILE HIS VISIT HELPED TO STRENGTHEN NATO TIES AND GIVE A BOOST TO THE SOCIALISTS AND MODERATES IN GENERAL, SOME OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WILL COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS AND GIVE RISE TO HEIGHTENED EXPECTATIONS.

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